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|--|---|------------------------|-----------------|
|  |   | Application Number     | 09/757,138      |
|  |   | Filing Date            | January 9, 2001 |
|  |   | First Named Inventor   | Chad C. Smutney |
|  |   | Group Art Unit         | 3763            |
|  |   | Examiner Name          | R. Ghafoorian   |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 7 | Attorney Docket Number | P-1656          |

### ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final  | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition   | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a<br>Provisional Application                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation<br>Change of Correspondence<br>Address | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please<br>identify below):<br>Copy of Claims Showing<br>Amendments<br>Return Receipt Postcard |
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Firm<br>or<br>Individual name | Frederick A. Spaeth |
| Signature                     |                     |
| Date                          | October 24, 2002    |

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| Date                  | October 24, 2002    |

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Chad C. Smutney et al : GROUP ART UNIT: 3763  
SERIAL NO: 09/757,138 :  
FILING DATE: January 9, 2001 : EXAMINER: R. Ghafoorian  
TITLE: BLUNTABLE NEEDLE ASSEMBLY WITH :  
OPEN-ENDED BLUNTING PROBE : ATTY DKT: P-1656

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 23, 2002

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the office action mailed October 3, 2002 in the captioned application.

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**AMENDMENTS**

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In the Claims

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Please cancel claims 2, 4 and 12.

Amend claims 1, 5-7 and 11 as follows. Enclosed herewith, in a separate paper, is a version of each amended claim marked up to show the changes made by the proposed amendments.

1. (once amended) A blutable needle assembly comprising:  
a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip, wherein the housing defines a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow therethrough; and  
a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a tubular, non-perforated blunting probe mounted on the shuttle member, the blunting probe having a blunt tip and a rearward open end;  
wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and wherein the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration; and